

CLAIMS

That which is claimed is:

1. A device comprising:

a container capable of holding and transporting contents having a built-in weighing device, where said container does not have to be suspended off the ground to determine it's weight.

2. A device according to claim 1 in which said weighing device is electronic.

3. A device according to claim 1 in which said weighing device includes at least one weight sensor.

4. A device according to claim 3 in which [said weight sensor(s) are] at least one weight sensor is located on the base, feet, sides, or top of the container device.

5. A device according to claim 3 in which [said weight sensor(s) are] at least one weight sensor is located in the interior compartment of the body of the said container device.

[6. A device according to claim 3 in which said weight sensor(s) are spaced sufficiently to provide the container device with ample balance and support, thus making the container device highly stable.]

7. A device according to claim 3 in which said weighing device can be activated [when placed directly on the weight sensor(s).] by a user.

8. A device according to claim 3 in which [said weight sensor(s) are] at least one weight sensor is used to synthesize and transmit data.

9. A device according to claim 8 in which said data [indicates] includes the current weight of said [container device and its] container's contents.

10. A device according to claim 9 in which said data is [transmitted] outputted from [said weight sensor(s)] at least one weight sensor to electronic circuitry [capable of determining weight information from the weight sensor data, and capable of displaying the weight information on a display.] located on the said container device.

11. A device according to [claim 9] claim 10 in which said data is [transmitted] outputted from [said weight sensor(s)] at least one weight sensor through commonly known wire or wireless circuitry or a combination hereof, capable of transporting data from [the weight sensors] at least one weight sensor to the electronic circuitry [of the weighing device] located on the said container device.

12. A device according to claim 11 in which said commonly known circuitry is fastened within the lining of said container device, and is not visible from outside of the container device.

13. A device according to claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry is contained within a housing structure located on the container device.

14. A device according to [claim 13] claim 10 in which said [housing structure contains] electronic circuitry is connected to a power source, [to] which can provide electrical power to the electronic circuitry.

15. A device according to [claim 14] claim 13 in which said housing structure can be accessed from the interior compartment of the body of the said container device.

16. A device according to [claim 14] claim 13 in which said housing structure can be accessed from the exterior of the body of the said container device.

[17. A device according to claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry reads said data as the current weight or value of the said container device.]

18. A device according to claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry calculates the [net] total weight or value of [contents in the said] the container device and its current contents by [having subtracted] adding the pre-stored weight of the empty container device [from] to the total measured weight or value of the contents inside the said container device.

19. A device according to [claim 17] claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry is connected to a display screen located on the container device.

20. A device according to claim 19 in which said display screen receives data from said electronic circuitry, and displays said data as the current total weight or value of the said container device [on the display screen] and its contents.

21. A device according to [claim 20] claim 19 in which said display screen automatically turns off after a period of time.

22. A device according to [claim 20] claim 19 in which said display screen can be turned on or off manually by a user.

23. A device according to claim 19 in which said electronic circuitry is connected to a switch, which [when activated] can activate a light on said display screen.

24. A device according to [claim 17] claim 19 in which said electronic circuitry is connected to a switch, which [when activated] can [toggle] activate a conversion of the readout value on said display screen between pounds, kilograms, or other [equivalent weight measurement units on a connected display screen] values.

25. A device according to claim 3 in which said container is comprised of a main body having a long side and at least one short side; a pair of wheels, a retractable handle assembly, and a plurality of zippers providing access to various compartments of the container device.

26. A device according to claim 25 in which said wheels are strategically fastened in a retracted position to not interfere with [the weight sensor(s)] at least one weight sensor of the container device.

27. A device according to claim 25 in which said wheels are strategically fastened in a retracted position to only touch the ground when the container device is tilted on it's side.

28. The device of claim 1 wherein the container device is a piece of luggage.

29. The device of claim 1 wherein the container device is a shipping container.

30. The self-weighing device of claim 29 comprising:

- a) at least one weight sensor for creating a data signal [including] which includes the current weight of [the container device, contents, and the weighing device] said container's contents.
- b) a display screen capable of displaying an indication of said container's weight to a user,
- c) system electronics for receiving the data signal from [the sensor(s)] at least one weight sensor, for converting the signal to an equivalent indication of weight, and for displaying the indication of weight on the display screen when activated.

31. A device according to claim 30 in which said container device may be either reusable or disposable.

32. The device of claim 14, wherein the power source is at least one of the groups consisting of: batteries, power capacitor, inductively coupled power source.

33. The device of claim 3 wherein the sensors are retractable such that they can be active when not retracted and can be inactive when retracted.

34. A device according to claim 19 in which said display screen retrieves and displays multiple kinds of data from the electronic circuitry.

35. The self-weighing device of claim 28 comprising:

- a) at least one weight sensor for creating a data signal which includes the current weight of said container's contents,
- b) a display screen capable of displaying an indication of said container's weight to a user,
- c) system electronics for receiving the data signal from at least one weight sensor, for converting the signal to an equivalent indication of weight, and for displaying the indication of weight on the display screen when activated.